

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2003-731

September 14, 2004

Appeal of Consumer Assistance  
Division Decision #2003-14789  
Regarding Northern Utilities  
Investigation Into Accuracy of Meter  
Test

PROCEDURAL ORDER

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On September 3, 2004, counsel for Northern Utilities notified the Commission that Northern and RMH Properties have been unable to reach a settlement in their billing dispute. Counsel requested that additional time be granted to permit Commission Staff involvement in the settlement process.

The Commission would like further information from the parties before committing staff resources to further negotiations. If in fact there is an "insurmountable gulf" between the parties' positions as stated in Counsel's letter, it may be a more prudent to proceed directly to hearings before the Commission. In order to make a determination, the Hearing Examiner directs the parties to file the following information by September 28, 2004:

1. a copy of the summary and calculations provided by Northern Utilities to RMH on July 23 as referred to in the second paragraph of the September 3 letter.
2. a statement from Northern Utilities of its current position
3. a statement from RMH of its current position.

After receipt of this information the Commission will decide whether to allow further time for settlement discussions, whether its Staff should participate in such discussions or whether to establish a hearing schedule.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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Joanne B. Steneck